A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I have enjoyed my seven-year tenure as editor of the Southern Journal of Criminal Justice and I am pleased to turn over a respectable and now microfilmed and abstracted product to your new editor, Ken Venters. I am sure he and managing editor Larry Gaines will continue to improve the journal and make us all proud to be one of only two regional associations in our field to support and publish such a valuable addition to the literature.

Take a look at the items in this issue and you will find some work that is the equivalent of the best in the larger, national journals, as well as some unique contributions to the literature that would not find a place in other journals. As usual, our journal mixes the empirical and the thought piece, the national (and sometimes international) and the regional. We seek and publish items on all aspects of the broad academic and professional field of criminal justice. It is this mix that makes us unique; it is this mix that provides us with our place in the field. I urge you as subscribers to seek to keep the journal's content consistent with this rich blend.

Finally, I urge all of us to seek continuously to improve the quality with each item that appears in the journal. Go the extra step in your research; spend the extra time to clarify your thoughts; and do the extra revision that makes the difference between a good article and a great article.

Again, I thank all of you for seven years of wonderful support!

Gene Stephens